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> JOHN C. CRARY Secretary

March 3, 1998

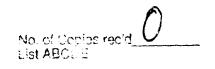
Hon. Magalie Roman Galas Secretary Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20554

> RE: In The Matter Of Federal State Joint Order On Universal Service -- CC Docket No. 96-45; Forward-Looking Mechanisms For High Cost Support -- CC Docket No. 97-160

Dear Secretary Galas:

In the <u>Universal Service Report and Order</u> released May 8, 1997, the Commission authorized state commissions to submit state specific forward-looking cost studies to determine federal universal service support for non-rural local exchange carriers. Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, <u>Report and Order</u>, FCC 97-157, para. 248. Many states, including New York, have proceedings pending in which forward-looking cost models are being developed. Recognizing the importance and complexity of the various proceedings designed to develop forward looking cost mechanisms, the Commission previously extended the date for filing state-specific cost models from February 6, 1998 to April 24, 1998.

The National Association of Regulatory Commissioners (NARUC) has filed a petition for further extension of time to file cost models in the above-captioned proceeding. The New York Department of Public Service supports NARUC's request and urges



the Commission to extend the time for filing the forward-looking cost models from April 24, 1998 to 90 days after the Commission issues the data input for its chosen model.

Sincerely,

Lauren D Molon

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